

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /077 W
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R 272000Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, FJ
SUBJECT: GOF REJECTION OF SOVIET OVERTURES

REF: SUVA 1456

1. HAS BECOME CLEAR OVER POAST FEW WEEKS THAT SOVIETS WENT ALL OUT GAIN ADDED ENTREE HERE AND OBTAIN PERMISSION ESTABLISH EMBASSY AT SUVA WHEN AMEBASSADOR A.V. BASLOV AND PARTY VISITED FROM CANBERRA (REFTEL). GOF APPARENTLY TURNED EVEN COLDER SHOULDER TO OVERTURES THAN EARLIER REPORTED.

2. ACCORDING EMBASSY SOURCES, BASLOV CALLED OR ATTEMPTED CALL ON NEARLY ALL CABINET MINISTERS AND PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF DEPARTMENTS. SAW MINISTERS OF ECON. DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, FINANCE, LABOR, DEPUTY PRIEM MIN. MIN EDUCATION SIKIVOU, FORMERLY FIJI AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND U.N., REFUSED RECEIVE
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HIM. BASLOV HOSTED LARGE DINNER FOR SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, FEW OF WHOM ACCEPTED, PLANNED ELABORATE DINNER FOR CABINET MINISTERS, ONLY TWO OF WHOM ATTENDED.

3. ACCORDING UNDERSEC FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BASLOV VERY AGGRESSIVELY PROMOTED SOVIET AID AND PRESSED HARD FOR LIST OF GOF ASSISTANCE NEEDS. HE OFFERED AID SPECIFICALLY IN MINING, AGRICULTUREAL,

FISHING FIELDS AND PROPOSED SEVERAL TRADE AND AID PACKAGES. PROPOSALS ALL COUCHED IN TERMS THAT WOULD HAVE PERMITTED SOVIETS TO ESTABLISH EMBASSY IN SUVA. TO EACH OFFER, ACCORDING UNDERSEC, GOF DEMUMED, POINTING OUT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES E.G. AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INTERNAIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. RUSSIANS PROPOSED FURTHER TALKS IN THREE MONTHS, GOF REFUSED, SUGGESTED SIX MONTHS. UNDERSEC CONCLUDED, "WE'LL KEEP BEAR IN CAGE."

4. APPARENTLY BASLOV'S CALL ON PRC AMBASSADOR MI WAS ERROR FROM WHICH HE UNABLE EXTRICATE HIMSELF GRACEFULLY. BEFORE ARRIVAL HE REQUESTED FORN DEPT ARRANGE CALLS ON ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION HERE AND PROTOCOL OFFICER UNTHINKINGLY INCLUDED PRC AMB WHO BELIATEDLY AGREED (PRESUMABLY AFTER CHECKING PEKING) TO RECEIVE RUSSIAN. BASLOV AGHAST TO LEARN ON ARRIVAL OF APPOINTMENT BUT WENT AHEAD WITH VERY BRIEF CALL ON ADVICE FROM GOF THAT CANCELLATION WOULD BE AWKWARD. OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION ON WHOM BASLOV CALLED REPORTE VISITS HAD LITTLE SUBSTANCE ASIDE FROM HIS CURIOSITY REGARDING PRC PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES.
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